

**Department of Historic Resources  
Reconnaissance Level Survey**

**Accomack**

**DHR Id#: 001-0027-0116**

**Resource Identification**

Property Name(s): ..... Launch Area 1 {Historic}  
WFF # Y-035 Launch Area #2 (Pads A, B and C)  
{Current}  
Property Date: ..... 1950  
Address(s): ..... Island Road {Current}  
County/Independent City: Accomack  
Vicinity of: ..... Chincoteague  
State, Zip: ..... Virginia 23337  
USGS Quad Name: ..... WALLOPS ISLAND  
Surrounding area: ..... Rural

**National Register Eligibility Status**

Property is Historic (50 years or older)

Property has not been evaluated

**Resource Description**

Ownership Status: ..... Public - Federal  
Acreage: ..... 0.5

**Primary Resource Exterior Component Description:**

<u>Component</u>	<u>Comp Type/Form</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Material Treatment</u>
Chimneys	Chimneys - None		
Foundation	Foundation - Slab	Concrete	Foundation - Poured
Porch	Porch - None		
Structural System	Structural System - Masonry		

Site Description: ..... Located within a fenced compound on the east side of Wallops Island, Launch Area #2 is in a level area consisting of paved concrete areas interspersed with lawn. Several buildings are located within the launch area complex, including Y-30 (001-0027-0115) Y-35B and Y-36.

**WUZIT Count:**

<u>No.</u>	<u>Wuzit Types</u>	<u>Historic?</u>
1	Air-Related	

**NR Resource Count:**

**Individual Resource Information**

WUZIT: ..... Air-Related

Est. Date of Construction: ....	1950 {Owner/written data}	Accessed? .....	Yes
Primary Resource? .....	Yes	Number of Stories: .....	0.0
Architectural Style: .....	Other	Condition: .....	Fair
Interior Plan Type: .....	Other	Threats to Resource: .....	Deterioration Neglect

**Description:** The launch area consists of a 600-foot long by 50-foot wide concrete strip that runs parallel to the sea wall and shore beyond. Three round metal plates, which served as the actual launch pads (A, B, and C) are laid in to the concrete surface. These plates originally supported metal launch stands, no longer extant, that supported the rockets during launchings. Rockets were also launched from temporary launchers that could roll onto the concrete strip for the actual launches. Two launch pads are located at the approximate center of the concrete strip, while a third is located toward the south end. The two pads in the center are similar in appearance. They are framed by a square section of concrete. A smaller circular section located in the center of a larger, outer circular plate projects upward above ground level. Six large bolts, regularly spaced along the inside of the center section, extend up from the surface, while eight smaller bolts form a smaller ring inside. A trench sunk into the surface of the concrete and evidenced by steel cover panels, extends from the launch pad to the nearby firing cubicles. The launch pad on the south end is slightly different. While it too is a circular steel plate set into the surrounding concrete surface, in the center there is a slightly raised square panel with four bolts. Two rectangular metal panels project from the outside of the plate, to the northeast and southeast respectively. There is no visible sunken trench that connects this launch pad to a firing cubicle.

**Department of Historic Resources  
Reconnaissance Level Survey**

**Accomack**

**DHR Id#: 001-0027-0116**

***Cemetery Information***

***Bridge Information***

***National Register Eligibility Information***

*Historic Context(s):* ..... Technology/Engineering

*Historic Time Period(s):*..... S- The New Dominion (1941- Present)

*Significance Statement:* Built in 1950 under the direction of NACA, this launch area served as the first launching site for rockets on Wallops Island and was originally referred to as Launch Area #1. The launch area incorporated the first launch pad built on Wallops Island in 1945 – a 50 by 50-foot concrete pad that was enlarged in 1948 and again in 1950 to its current size of 600 feet long by 50 feet wide. The long concrete strip runs roughly parallel with the current sea wall and shore and contains three metal launch pads. Now part of WFF, Launch Area #2 is located on the east side of Wallops Island, in a level area that consists of paved concrete areas interspersed with lawn.

The structure is associated with a technology/engineering property type built during the New Dominion Period (1945 – present) period. The structure was constructed as a component of a rocket research facility operated by the Pilotless Aircraft Research Station (PARS) under the direction of NACA from 1946 to 1958. Until becoming part of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1958, PARS functioned as a rocket research facility that continually refined its capacity to collect aeronautic and scientific data through improvements in radar tracking, radio telemetry, and photographic techniques that provided significant data for the development of Cold War missile technology and manned spaceflight during the Space Race.

Launch Area #2 (Pads A, B and C) has been evaluated both as a contributing resource in a historic district and as an individual resource. Issues of significance, integrity, and district boundaries were carefully considered. A proposed district comprising this resource lacks integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association due to the demolition of many of the buildings from the period of significance (1936 to 1959), the removal of much of the historic fabric from the majority of extant buildings, and the construction of later buildings. Thus a historic district here is not eligible under Criterion A, B, C, or D.

The resource is not eligible for listing in the National Register or the Virginia Landmarks Register under Criterion A, B, C, or D. It does not by itself sufficiently embody a quality of significance associated with events in order to be eligible under Criterion A, nor does it sufficiently embody a quality of significance associated with a person in order to be eligible under Criterion B. While the resource retains its location, setting and association, alterations to the structure have adversely affected its integrity of design, materials, workmanship and feeling, including changes to the concrete launching pads and removal of associated components. Therefore the resource is not eligible under Criterion C as it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. This property does not have the potential for providing additional information in history or prehistory under Criterion D.

***Bibliographic Documentation***

**Department of Historic Resources  
Reconnaissance Level Survey**

**Accomack**

***DHR Id#: 001-0027-0116***

*Reference #:* 1

*Bibliographic RecordType:* ..... Book

*Author:* ..... Joseph Adams Shortal

*Citation Abbreviation:* .....

*Notes:* ..... Shortal, Joseph Adams. "A New Dimension—Wallops Island Flight Test Range: The First Fifteen Years." National Aeronautics and Space Administration Scientific and Technical Information Office: 1978.

***Ownership Information***

***Graphic Media Documentation***

<i>Medium</i>	<i>Depository ID #</i>	<i>Photo Depository</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>File Name</i>
35mm B&W	21540	DHR	2004/07/99	Frames 16-21

***Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Events***

*CRM Event # 1,*

*Cultural Resource Management Event:* ..... Reconnaissance Survey

*Date:* ..... 2004/07/99

*Organization or Person:* ..... URS Group

*VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event:* .. 2003-0571

*CRM Event Notes or Comments:* ..... 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

*CRM Event # 2,*

*Cultural Resource Management Event:* ..... Reconnaissance Survey

*Date:* ..... 2003/08/08

*Organization or Person:* ..... URS GROUP

*VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event:* .. 2003-0571

*CRM Event Notes or Comments:* ..... 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878